



SOUTHEAST NEWS

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ANNUAL MEETING: *"The Voice of One"*

The 1995 SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING will be held June 9, 10, & 11 at beautiful Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center in Norcross, Georgia (just north of Atlanta). If you have not already registered your pastor and your delegates, DO SO TODAY! Rooms are filling up fast!

This year's theme, *"The Voice of One ..."* will be explored in various creative ways by all in attendance. Keynote presentations will be made by the Rev. Daniel F. Romero, General Secretary, Mission Program Unit, United Church Board for World Ministries, and the Rev. Mary Sue Gast, Executive Director, Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

For those wishing to register prior to the Annual Meeting, if there are any questions please refer to Elizabeth Clement, 404-876-3217, with any question.

Registration will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Ad displays/booths (if pre-registered with Ted Braun, 615-277-5135, by May 15th) may begin setting up at 1:00 p.m. Early arrivals may simply enjoy the setting or walk the 2+ miles of nature trails. There will also be displays to peruse with a bookstore and SERVV items to buy (graciously presented by Bob and Ruth Peebles).

Besides the special keynote presentations, exhilarating worship, and the necessary Conference business, this year's conference highlights will include "Our Changing Voices ..." as we celebrate "Roger's Knight" on Friday evening and pay tribute to, and say formal farewells to our beloved Conference Minister and his spouse, Beth ... the evening will be their last occasion with us.

Saturday will include various welcomes for our new Interim Conference Minister and a report from the Structures Committee. The theme, "The Voice of One ..." will continue as our common "voices" emerge at luncheon affinity groups (groups with common interests and agendas. If you want one special, please indicate); an installation service; and afternoon workshops/forums that will include "A Women's Gathering" with Mary Sue Gast; "Discussions with our General Synod Delegates;" "The Church's Wider Mission" with Dan Romero; "A Nature Walk" through the beautiful Simpsonwood grounds with naturalist Frank McCamey; and "A How-To Workshop on the 'Word Among Us' Curriculum."

On Saturday evening, we will celebrate the "Voices of Our Churches ..." with an evening of entertainment, talents, stories and music by numerous groups, congregations, and individuals representing the diversity of the Southeast

Conference. This celebration will also serve as an introduction of our churches to our newly elected Board of Directors, staff and new Interim Conference Minister, who will be the guest of honor. The Planning Committee is still looking for participants for Saturday evening's program. If your church would like to send a group or individuals (storytellers, choir, drama, dance, etc.) please contact Elizabeth Clement at 404-876-3217, or Jim Walker at 205-734-0341, no later than May 15th.

Sunday morning will find us "Tuning Our Voices ..." as we participate in sessions of leadership training. These will be designed to introduce new approaches and answers to the question, "How do I effectively do the work of ...?" to the various roles of officers and committees in the local church setting such as Moderator/President, Deacons/Diaconate, Treasurers/Finance/Budget, Stewardship/OCWM, Christian Education/Superintendents, and Youth/Post-High Ministries. Our closing worship and Communion will feature a dialogue sermon by our two keynote presenters. We will adjourn at 11:30 a.m. with "sack lunches" available for those who must travel, or a sit-down lunch for those who can remain. Another addition this year will be a Conference choir, with practice at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, and after dinner on Saturday. They will participate in the Sunday morning closing worship and Communion. It is the goal of this Annual Meeting to create an atmosphere of community for us as the "Family of the SEC." Simpsonwood provides a "self-contained" setting in which this might be accomplished. You are encouraged NOT to come just for Saturday, but rather, "Come for the entire experience as we seek the Voice of God, Ourselves, and the Church, together." The costs are not really higher this year; the conference fees are totally inclusive (meals, snacks, lodging, etc.) and represent a savings over procuring lodging, meals, etc. "on your own" in the Atlanta area. Plan to send your pastor and delegates for the entire conference. Visitors are welcome, but must be pre-registered. This year's Annual Meeting will be more like a family reunion than a meeting, and isn't that what it should be? MARK YOUR CALENDAR, June 9-11, 1995 and *get your registration in early* for the 1995 SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING! Come, visit with "Your Family" and be a part of "The Voice of One ...!"

The Make a Difference Campaign

Bring on the balloons and champagne! Let's get high ... on the Spirit! For the Holy Spirit has been touching the motivational centers and moving the hearts of folk in the Southeast Conference. We have surpassed the Make A Difference Campaign SEC challenge goal of \$250,000. As of this writing we stand at \$268,700. In addition, 30 more SE congregations have mailed Covenant forms to the national office indicating that they will have a campaign before the Campaign Office closes at the end of June. And this, friends, follows on the heels of the Visions '91 Campaign in which \$173,248.95 was raised. Isn't this amazing?

From all of this we learn two things about our Southeast Conference: 1. We are stronger than we usually assume that we are. Our confidence in our capability should be greatly enhanced. 2. There are large numbers of us who celebrate the mission of the UCC and who believe in its future.

Let's recall what we are helping make possible as the UCC moves toward the challenges of the soon-to-dawn new century. A scholarship program will assist at least 45 seminarians each year (some seminarians begin their ministries with more than \$30,000 in student loan debt). The advances land acquisition program will purchase a series of advance church site locations. A revolving loan fund will enable rebuilding and renovating UCC church facilities. Community mission development grants will enable local ministries such as housing project. At least one third of all the funds raised will be devote to Conference needs. My understanding is that one half of our SEC challenge goal (\$250,000) will come back to our Conference. The campaign will provide new funds for endowments, which will continue our UCC mission for generations to come. These endowment funds will grow year by year as a portion of annual income is reinvested. This Campaign will indeed enable the UCC to continue to make a difference in God's world.

On the national scene, at this writing, pledges stand at \$15,162,525. This is a little over half way to the goal of \$30 million. But nearly 900 congregations, coming aboard late, are planning campaigns before the end of June. This should get us pretty close to the goal.

Please note: even though the Campaign Office will close the end of June, campaign pledges will continue to be received. A number of congregations across the nation will campaign this fall. Perhaps you should be one of these! Remember, we are asking *EACH MEMBER OF EACH CONGREGATION TO MAKE A MONTHLY PLEDGE OF AT LEAST SOMETHING OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD*. This must be over and above regular giving. Many churches have feared that the Make a Difference goal for them is too large. But six SEC congregations tripled their goal; three doubled their goal. A glowing story is that of the Pleasant Grove Church (Ala.) which raised \$12,213 on a goal of \$3,934. This came about when 86-year-old Lala Allen challenged another family in the church to match her own gift of \$5,000. Other church members were inspired to follow their example. Mrs. Allen was one of the cluster directors who was faithful to her task.

As we have said so often, the Make a Difference Campaign is not just one more campaign. It is a once-in-a-generation kind of campaign. Surely you want to become part of it while there is still time. You still can!

Congratulations, Southeast Conference!

1994 VILLA INTERNATIONAL ATLANTA

With expanded kitchen, bedroom and storage space (part of a ten-year expansion plan), Villa International can better serve the increasing numbers of guests, now over 1,000 per year.

An additional 1/3-acre of land will soon add to the parking and recreational area, plus protect Villa from commercial encroachment.

The 6th annual Festival of Nations (April 30th) has greatly increased visibility in the greater Atlanta community.

In 1994, Villa hosted 1,015 guests from 109 countries with an annual room occupancy of 76% and received the highest rental income to date.

Villa International appreciates the United Church of Christ for its hard work, prayers and support of its mission of hospitality to our international guests.

Carol A. Wood and Harry F. Petersen

ELON HOMES RECEIVES DUKE ENDOWMENT GRANT

Elon College, NC: Elon Homes for Children has received a \$55,498 grant to assist in providing its child care services. In March, the Duke Endowment awarded almost \$4.1 million to hospitals and children's homes in North and South Carolina.

The Endowment makes these grants, on an annual basis, to qualifying children's homes, to help underwrite general operating costs. For Elon Homes for Children, this will help offset the cost of residential care services. The award is based on the number of children served during the previous year. Elon Homes cared for 280 youth in residence during 1994.

Founded in 1907, Elon Homes for Children serves nearly 300 North and South Carolina youth annually in residential care on its campuses in Elon College and in Charlotte. The young people are served through such programs as crisis care (short-term), and long-term intensive treatment, preparation for adult living, and therapeutic foster care.

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AT EMMAUS HOMES

In 1994, Emmaus Homes established new off-campus housing facilities; served a total of 294 persons with developmental disabilities; and began providing service to eight new supported living units.

Rev. Ruth Rinne retired after 13 years' service on the Marthasville campus. Rev. Gail Reynolds came to Emmaus as the new Chaplain for the St. Charles campus.

Emmaus continues to make long-range plans to keep pace with changing demands and to effectively utilize all of Emmaus' human and physical resources.

Late Note:

Montgomery, AL, First Congregational Church destroyed by fire April 21 as a result of lightning. It was a 123-year-old congregation, whose building, erected 1872, was on the Historic Register.

KEYNOTERS

The Rev. Daniel F. Romero is a native of Los Angeles, California and holds a B.A. degree from the American University in Washington, DC, where he served on a Congressional staff as a legislative assistant. Rev. Romero received his M.Div. degree from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley in 1970 and was ordained into the ministry in June of that year by the Los Angeles Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC. He was called to serve as minister of education at Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista from 1970-73, and was pastor at Morningside UCC from 1973-76. In November 1976, Rev. Romero was elected Associate Conference Minister for the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC, and in December of 1984 received a Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University Law School. He is a member of the New York Bar Association with particular interest in immigration and international law.

Rev. Romero was appointed General Secretary for Mission Program of the UCBWM staff in 1987. His main responsibility is the oversight of the Board's overseas mission activities, including One Great Hour of Sharing, Global Education and Advocacy, Mission Personnel and World Ministries in the U.S. programs. HE assists the Executive Vice President with budget development and general administration. He travels extensively, reviewing mission programs and policy with overseas partners, and serves in a variety of capacities with the UCC, the National Council of Churches, and in facilitating the UCC/Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ecumenical partnership. He is committed to working with diverse constituencies in shaping an authentic ecumenical and multi-cultural context for global ministry. He is the author of "Our Futures Inextricably Linked: A Vision of Pluralism," published by the UCBHM.

The Rev. Dr. Mary Susan Gast is the Executive Director of the UCC Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society. As Executive Director, she is responsible for monitoring the status of women in the UCC and developing policies and programs to address women's concerns in the church and wider society.

Dr. Gast has served as Associate Conference Minister of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. While pastor of the Smith Memorial UCC in Grand Rapids, Michigan, she founded the Southwest Michigan Riverside Project in Grand Rapids, an educational ministry to help people reflect on issues related to disarmament and nuclear war. She has also served as pastor of First Congregational UCC in Union City, Michigan and as a campus minister at Iowa State University.

Her colleagues have described her as "... a poet ... one who has the ability to combine the roles of theologian and poet, has the depth of theological awareness, and understanding of the faith issues below the surface that has helped ground and guide our thinking in many areas."

Mary Susan received her D.Min. degree from Chicago Theological Seminary. She is married to Rev. Roger Straw and they have a daughter, fifteen-year-old Susannah.

***Schedule for the 29th Annual Meeting
Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center
Norcross, Georgia***

Theme: "The Voice of One ..."

Friday, June 9

1:00 p.m.	Display Setups Board of Directors
4:00 p.m.	Registration (Dinner)
6:30 p.m.	Community Building
7:00 p.m.	Opening Worship I: Mary Sue Gast
9:30 p.m.	"Roger's Knight and Beth's Day"

Saturday, June 10

	(Breakfast)
	Memorial Service: J. Myers
	Roll Call
	Business Session
	A. Reports
	B. Structures
10:50 a.m.	Break
11:05 a.m.	Worship II: Dan Romero
	(Lunch)
	Business Session
	Recognitions – Iowa/Honored Laywomen
	Resolutions
	Installation – Dick Sales
	Forums/Workshops
	Women w/Mary Sue Gast
	Nature Walk – Frank McCamey
	Wider Mission – Dan Romero
	General Synod
	Ethics
	Word Among Us
	(Dinner)
	"Voices of Our Churches"
	"Welcome Interim"

Sunday, June 11

(Breakfast)

8:30 a.m.	Leadership Training
10:00 a.m.	Worship II: Dialogue with Mary Sue Gast and Dan Romero
	Communion
11:25 a.m.	Closure (Lunch)
	Dining Room or Pack-a-Lunch
12 noon	Board of Directors
1:00 p.m.	All displays MUST be down

LAITY SUNDAY

Sunday, June 11th, has been declared *UCC SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, LAITY SUNDAY*, so that your pastor and delegates do not have to hurry home from the Annual Meeting and miss important sessions. Laity Sunday materials are being prepared (liturgy, sermon, prayers, etc.) and will be sent to each congregation in early May for use on June 11th. Last year, at least 17 congregations used all or part of the furnished materials with great success. These materials will be lectionary-based and are drawn from the various 1995 Annual Conference Meeting's Worship Celebrations. Plan to participate in *UCC SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE LAITY SUNDAY* and allow your pastor(s) and delegates to attend the entire Annual Meeting!

CONFERENCE COMMENTS:

Conference Minister's Message

After these fleeting six and a half years, I write my last official message to you. There are many reflections – including the beautiful terrains throughout the Southeast, the varieties of cultures represented in our diverse churches, the history which forms a backdrop, the religiosity which pervades – but above all, you the people and the faith struggle here. All of us together are at an exciting threshold for tomorrow. Walk into it!

"You are my beloved" was the voice to Jesus and those around. It is God's voice of caring, affirmation and belonging. Henri Nouwen has written that the greatest message of God in Jesus, is the gift of "Your Belovedness," and the greatest trap in our life is self-rejection. We are called to "be the beloved." We do not always remember, nor are we able to view others and treat them as the beloved ("sin always abounds"), but Jesus' own affirmed life and his ministry was to relate to others always as "beloved." Don't you just get an assurance and a longing at the same time when you think of your own life, and others, as the beloved? Uppermost in my ministry is always the local church, for that is where we live out all of the ups and downs, joys and failures, the life and death and resurrections, with other people; your church is the "community of the beloved." Let it be!

Jesus came to bring God's realm (the Kingdom was the main theme of his preaching and teaching). Through the healings, acceptance, teachings, confrontations, he indicated that the kingdom is not "there and then," but "here and now." "The kingdom is in the midst of you." As one dear soul said, "It is to live as if what can be, already is." The lesson for our life in the Conference is that a principality and power got transformed, from "we aren't enough to have a cohesive, viable future and are dependent on outside help, to the faith that calls us to claim a gifted potent future – and God will bring it about." That is what I believe has happened to you as a Conference in these few years.

The God of resurrection is the God of tomorrow; tomorrow is always a new gift to us, free of any restrictions. Paul said that all those who are in Christ are a new creation, the old has passed away and the new has come. The faith that makes life worth living is the future that determines the present. It is the theological tilt on my ministry with you: to live today the call of God for tomorrow. I firmly believe that Southeast Conference, with God, has a lively and vital mission for the future. Live as if it is so!

Now, a personal word of gratitude to God for the privilege of being called to minister with you these years, in what are the most poignant, rich, challenging, and revealing years of my ministry. Nothing is learned or gained without cost. And though the struggles, pains, wanderings, and questions were many, God has continued to guide, chasten, call and sustain us all ... God brings things about ... and transforms it all to joy, friendship, and gratitude. Because of those developing ties that bind, a mutual sense of belonging, and the vision for this Conference and your churches, I have not found the decision to a new calling to be easy. I give thanks for all with whom I've been privileged to work on staff and as elected leaders. But especially I thank you all for your prayers, your support, your concerns, challenges and loyal faith. Thanks be to God ... for you!

There are many other things I would like to say to you, some personally, some to congregation or groups, and also to you as a whole. But time and circumstances do not permit. Know assuredly that you are dear and deep in my heart as "the Beloved." Be strong and courageous in the faith as God's future; and in all things, give thanks to God, for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ in whom dwells the message, mission and mystery of God's love for the world. God bless.

Faithfully,
Roger Knight

Comments on Our Pilgrimage

My desk calendar shows most, if not all, of the routine and special activities and services that have engaged my ministry this program year ending June 1995. This information reflects three major categories – 1) Church Development & Evangelism, 2) Conference Staff liaison with associations and local churches, and 3) other activities and services in keeping with our call to service as a covenantal community of Jesus Christ. My intention here is not to focus only on facts and

figures, but to share some personal observation and commentary on where I believe we are at this stage of our pilgrimage.

1) CHURCH DEVELOPMENT & EVANGELISM. Maybe it's just me ... projecting what I want most to see happen, but I could swear I am seeing a more balanced emphasis on Evangelism as an integral part of our Church Development strategy. This has always been our intention, but I feel it has been either too passive or too much taken for granted heretofore. What I see is a more intentional and openly expressed passion for souls as part of our overall effort to start, or renew local churches within our Southeast Conference region. We have, and should have legitimate and reasonable concerns about money and head counting the number of people we put in the yearbook. But a more qualitative approach has emerged at places like Amistad (Marietta, GA), United Church of Christ Fellowship (Columbia, SC) and United Church of Christ in Middle Georgia (Macon, GA). All of these have in one way or another awakened Christian spontaneity, and creative spiritual outreaches at Atlanta Good Shepherd Community (Atlanta), Center Congregational Church (Atlanta) and Rush Memorial Church (Atlanta). There is now some inspiration on the part of at least one of our well-established churches, Trinity at Jonesboro, GA, to sponsor a new church at Peachtree City, GA on its own initiative. At the "Landings" near Savannah in the beautiful coastal area of Georgia, the spirit is moving some to establish a church and expand the United Church of Christ's presence in that area. We have attempted to covenant with United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to prime the pump for church starts at places like Sheares Memorial (Chattanooga, TN) and Southeast DeKalb County (Atlanta) mainly with money. What we have learned now, however, is that in all church development cases, the passion to reach souls and enrich the body of Christ is an essential, decisive, and critical factor to our eventual success, with Evangelism and Church Development.

2) ASSOCIATIONS. My other assignment has been to work with our associations and local churches to help provide an appropriately effective Conference staff liaison at all times. With the Alabama-Tennessee Association, for example, I have shared most of their monthly meetings in specified ways, their annual meetings and their special worship and celebrations of ministry throughout the year. I have always been invited and encouraged to share fully in their life and service, and I have in turn benefited spiritually by being a part of the Association community. From time to time I have also been called upon to work with Georgia-South Carolina Association, mainly during the absence of the Conference Minister who serves them, in the same manner as I serve Alabama-Tennessee. But in some specific ways, i.e., church development, stewardship and programs, I have been privileged to work closely with all associations.

3) OTHER. Two other very important and strategic program areas have engaged my services. They are program and stewardship. Working with the Conference Program Chair, we again set up and carried through the annual program planning session. Trinity United Church of Christ at Jonesboro, GA hosted the event this past year. I represented the Southeast Conference at the special board

meeting of the Stewardship Council in Cleveland, held to provide input for the development of a new stewardship communications system. This system intends to modify and enhance the "Key Pak" system and provide better communication of educational and inspirational stewardship materials. During the week of April 23-30, I will be joining members and representatives of our Stewardship Commission and local churches at the annual Graham Cluster Stewardship Workshop at Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia. The Graham Cluster includes Southern Conference, Florida Conference, Southeast Conference and Puerto Rico Conference.

Mitchell C. Johnson
Associate Conference Minister

Commission on Christian Social Justice

The Commission on Christian Social Justice has continued to work on the two-year plan established last year. The "Social Justice Networker" has been mailed three times a year to all those in the Southeast Conference who are on the national Peace and Justice Network mailing list. The mission of this newsletter is to share information about social justice issues of regional concern and to highlight the work that is being done by individuals, churches, and other UCC-related groups in the Southeast.

The Commission has approved three applications for the Just Peace and Hunger Action funds that are retained in the Conference. At the time of this writing, applications for 1995 grants are being accepted, and checks will be presented at Annual Meeting to those projects that are approved for funding.

The Commission sees itself as a support and resource system for the four association committees on Christian Social Justice. Two associations have strong committees, and the at-large members of the Commission are developing consultant relationships with the chairs of the other committees in order to help strengthen them.

Later this year, members of the Commission will explore ways of working with the Stewardship Commission to promote participation in the Just Peace and Hunger Action offerings.

Conference Retreat Center Committee

The Conference Retreat Committee met several times during the past and is still excited about the prospect of having a future home for our Conference and the many activities that can bring our churches and people together for prayer, study, growth, planning, etc. I want to thank our Conference Minister, Rev. Roger Knight, for his leadership. It has been his efforts that have kept things going during my illness.

I want to also thank Mrs. Lala Allen, Sig Orgler and Rodney Harmon for their tireless efforts in coming up with a design for our retreat center. They hope to

be able to present this to the Committee at our next meeting, along with some cost figures for the center.

Our Committee has worked long and hard at coming up with a mission statement. Along with the mission statement, we have discussed who will use the center. We realize that if we depend only upon our people to use the center, the costs of maintenance will be prohibitive. Your Committee is trying to very careful to make sure that we do not burden the Conference with a liability.

We call upon all members of the Conference to be much in prayer for us as we seek to design, build and maintain a facility that will be a blessing for all of our people. We will be asking for your financial help as soon as all of these things are in place and are approved by the Board of Directors and the Conference.

As Chair of the Conference Retreat Committee, I want to thank all of the members for their help and support during my surgery and recovery. I am not back to full-time year, but we are getting there. I know that you share with me the sorrow in Roger leaving us, but we all wish him Godspeed. He has been a tremendous asset to this Conference. Our love and our prayers will go with Roger and Beth as they leave us to go to Ohio. Our loss is their gain, but I hope that they will not forget us in the Southeast Conference.

Floyd Carmack
Chair

Report of the Committee on Structure

We affirm the importance of continuing the Conference with its current geographical boundaries as the legal entity and representation of the UCC in our region. However, given the geographic expanse of the region and the relatively small and scattered number of active congregations (with small membership and limited resources) we recommend the following new directions for our life together.

1) As a Conference, *we should emphasize the personal, the fellowship and the gatherings* of this wonderfully diverse and gifted people. A Faith-Works experience every two years, the annual business/fellowship meeting (alternating with Faith-Works), associational, cluster, program forums, and fellowship of different groups are opportunities for gathering as part of the UCC family in this Southeast region of the country.

2) We should use a *Faith-Works model* every two years for the gathering of as many of our 7,500 members of our churches as is possible for inspiration, fellowship, education and planning. The first of these to be held targeting 1997. Out of such a gathering, program plans would be developed for the subsequent two-year period. From among people interested, involved and willing to commit and recruit others to participate, a strategy would be developed to accomplish future program objectives.

3) We should *create a working Council* to be comprised of 4 officers (moderator, vice moderator, secretary and treasurer), past moderator, 4

associational representatives, 3 program chairpersons, 1 ecumenical representative, 1 General Synod Executive Council representative, 4 members-at-large, and 10 members (adjusted as needed), each elected to serve as a representative of a cluster of churches. (The cluster representatives would be nominated by the cluster of a specific geographical territory and elected by the association, unless by the time of the annual meeting a representative had not been identified. In that case, the nominating committee would nominate a liaison to serve the churches of the cluster.) The Conference would serve as an *ex officio* member of the Council.

4) We should *emphasize communication*. The role of the cluster representative is that of a communication link between the churches of the cluster and the wider church ... at least at the level of the Conference. Each representative would be expected to be in touch with the pastor or lay leader of each church in the cluster in advance of the meeting of the Council to find out, "What is going on?"

Further, as a follow-up to each meeting of the Council, each cluster representative would be in touch with the pastor or lay leader of each church to report, "What is going on in the wider church?" Preferably these contacts could be by way of breakfast or luncheon meetings of the pastors or lay leaders of all the churches of the cluster. Such would be a wonderful vehicle of communication as well as fellowship and support.

5) We should *organize program bodies of the Conference as they are proposed at the national level* of our denomination: (At the time of this proposal ... Local Ministries, Wider Ministries and Justice/Witness). The program chairs should carry the lead in the development of program planning at Faith-Works and in providing technical assistance and support in the implementation of those plans.

6) While this committee did not include in its purview any structural changes in the associations, it is suggested that *associations also structure their program bodies to conform* to this design related to program committees of the Conference so that the scope of program responsibility is parallel. It is recommended that each association include the associational representative to the Conference on its associational executive committee to assure communication between the Conference and the association. Further, if the program chairs of each association would be willing to serve on the planning committee of the Faith-Works event and see that the programs developed at that event are carried out in their associations, that would be a useful mechanism for program implementation; but associations would have to agree to order their life like this and to plan, at least part of their work, around the Faith-Works Event. In this structure, associations are encouraged to be active and responsible as participants in the planning of the Faith-Works event and, further in the design and implementation of other program plans to meet the needs of local churches.

7) In addition to the three program committee, the *Council should elect from among its members committees necessary for the maintenance and oversight of the Conference office*, such as Finance, Personnel, etc.

8) The Conference *should maintain the role of the Conference Minister ...* a person of faith, a wise and well-informed leader, a minister who can be a pastor to pastors, and one who is a trusted friend; one to whom we can turn for guidance. Until there is interest on the part of other conferences, other denominations, or National, to manage, perhaps by contract, the bookkeeping and other administrative supports, we should maintain an administrative assistant, part-time clerical support and part-time bookkeeping help.

9) The Conference should *emphasize growth and expansion* in areas where the UCC would be a breath of fresh air among people seeking a church home. Toward this end, the Conference should consult with National regarding its support of one full-time equivalent staff position to begin as our current arrangement is completed. (We are in the last year of a five-year arrangement providing half-time support.)

It is proposed that the request of National be to support three, one-third-time salaries: one for Tennessee/Mississippi, one for Alabama/Florida, and one for Georgia/South Carolina. This support would assist the conference minister with an emphasis on making a UCC presence known via church development, ministerial placement of UCC ministers and other ways of establishing a UCC presence in the area. While these positions would not necessarily be geographically assigned to cover the existing territory of associations, each would serve as Conference liaison to each of the associations. The goal of these part-time positions would be to strengthen local churches, associations, and the Conference in each of these areas.

10) While our financial resources must be given to an emphasis on growth and expansion, there are many things we can do to *strengthen the ties which bind us together as local churches, associations, a Conference and the wider church*. We should encourage the exchange of pulpits and special music, notices of special events, and requests for and offers of help with special needs ... all as members of an extended family doing things together. Additionally, while clusters of churches have been identified for purposes of communication between the local church and the wider church, many other kinds of groupings based upon common issues, heritage, etc. are also useful and encouraged. Further it is recommended that the Conference Minister recruit, train and use volunteers as individuals and groups to address specific needs of local churches with ministerial placement, conflict resolution, and technical assistance. There are both lay and ministerial staffs available who can help extend the services of that office.

IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS

1) At the Annual Meeting, the Conference should take action on these recommendations, and establish a work group to establish how and when these recommendations can be implemented at Annual Meeting 1996.

2) The Board should select a Constitution and By-laws committee with good representation from the Structures Committee to propose changes required by these

recommendations, along with other changes which seem wise to make at the same time. Such a report should be made to the Board of Directors in January 1996.

3) The Board should establish a method for achieving agreement with National for staffing assistance.

4) The Board should provide notice to all committees to begin thinking and planning for a Faith-Works event targeting 1997.

Structure Committee Members and Other Workers

Truman Moore, Chair

James Myers

Bill Chew

Dan Rosemergy

Ken Iha

Bill Tweed

Roger Knight

Erna Bryant

Dzauya Nkuchwayo

Barbara Everett

Steve Sterner

Mitchell Johnson

Roy Bain

Ervin Milton

Marilyn Dubasak

Richard Sales

Bernice Powell Johnson

Slate of Nominations, 1995

POSITIONS

CONTINUING

NOMINATIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS

Moderator

Richard Sales, '96

Vice Moderator

Annie Neal, '96

Secretary

Susan Ewing, '97

Treasurer

David Speno, '97

Past Moderator

Erna Bryant, '96

MEMBERS

Members-at-Large

Susan Newman, '96

Louise Cox, '97

Karl Whiteman, '96

Liz Clement, '97

AL/TN Association

Paula Van Natta, '96

J. T. Lowery, '97

EAL/WGA Association

Don Harmon, '96

Jimmy Pilkington, '97

SAL/NWFL Association

Marvin Brand, '96

COMMISSIONS

Church & Ministry	James Myers, Chair, '96	Maureen Jenci-Shelton, '97
Christian Education	Jack Yates, '96 Dyann Wilkerson, '96	Douglas Garner, Chair, '97 Harry Manon, '97
Stewardship/OCWM	Bob Kurtz, Chair, '96 Steve Parker, '96 Lenda Sherrell, '96	
Church Development & Evangelism	Ed Schneider, Chair, '96	Jeanie Harry, '97
Women in Society	Flora Bridges, '96 Joyce Myers-Brown, Chair, '96	Betty B. Floyd, '97
Social Justice	Jean Reid, '96 Dorothy Gager, Chair, '96 Ted Braun, '96	Carole Miller, '97

COMMITTEES

Heritage		Shirley Bowen, Chair '97 Clara Lowe, '97
Nominating	Vanessa Robbs, '96 Wayde Washburn, '96	

GENERAL SYNOD

Delegate	Debbie Douglas, '97
Alternate	Louise Cox, '97
Delegate	Wayde Washburn '97
Alternate	Stephen Sterner, '97

Report on Iowa—Southeast Partnership

At the Women's Conference last fall, four Iowa women attended and enjoyed it very much. One attendee was Linda Cline of Urbandale UCC in Des Moines (which has a partnership with Sweetwater First). She and Yubenia Prigmore visited and resolved to be more active ...

Mert Fedderson, Chair of Iowa group, and I exchanged contact names of respective committees of the Iowa and Southeast conferences. Pleasant Hill Community Church has decided to investigate establishing a partnership and has sent feelers to an Iowa church.

Meta Potter, Director of Morgan-Scott, Elizabeth Clement and I, in consultation with the Iowa Committee, set June 11-17 for a partnership work camp at Morgan-Scott. I sent descriptions of the 1995 Morgan-Scott Work Camp and dates to Mert Feddersen and Co-Chair, Bonnie Baum, and acting Iowa Conference Minister Rev. Chuck Briem. Sadly, they did not put it on their January-June Conference calendar.

After talking with Elizabeth Clement, I sent an article on the Morgan-Scott Work Camp for the *Southeast News*, and sent it for a sample to the Iowa Conference. I have also made flyers to be put on bulletin boards in churches in the SEC, and sent it to Iowa also, hoping they will distribute them to be put on their churches' bulletin boards. Flyers were also distributed to attendees of the Ala.-Tenn. Association meeting January 14th. Bill Chew said he would make copies and distribute to Ala.-Tenn. Association churches.

Ben Welch of Crossville has agreed to serve on our committee.

We received a letter from the Iowa Conference Partnership Committee in which their Conference Board of Directors endorsed the continuing of the partnership and has accepted the Morgan-Scott Work Camp 1995 as a project. They added new members to their committee to bring it up to full strength (eight members). The Iowa Committee suggests partnership contacts at the General Synod, June 29-July 4, 1995.

Charlie Lord
Partnership Coordinator

The Nominees ...

Who They Are

Susan Ewing – Sheares Memorial Church, Chattanooga (see profile)

David Speno – Central Congregational Church, Atlanta; doctoral CPE program

Susan Newman – Pastor, First Congregational Church, Atlanta

Louise Cox – Pleasant Grove Church, LaFayette; faculty, Southern Union State Community College (see profile); SIFAT staff and mission tour leader

Liz Clement – First Congregational Church, Atlanta; seminary student, SIFAT staff, and mission tour leader

J. T. Lowery – Pastor, Mountain Grove Church, Hanceville, AL

Jimmy Pilkington – United Church, LaGrange; choir director, business owner

Michele Brathwaite – Amistad UCC, Marietta, GA; Olympics project manager for MARTA (see profile)

Doug Garner – Pastor, Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, GA

Harry Manon – Retired pastor, Pleasant Hill, TN

Jeanie Harry – Congregational Christian Church, Lanett, AL; staff, West Point Stevens Company

Betty Burroughs Lloyd – Jones Chapel, Woodbury, GA; supervisor, Dental Corporation

Carol Jean Miller – Central Congregational, Atlanta; prison ministry

Shirley W. Bowen – United Church, LaGrange; editor, *Southeast News*; staff, Troup County Archives

Clara Lowe – First Congregational, Atlanta; retired (see profile)

1996 Proposed Budgets

The Board of Directors proposed for adoption the following 1996 budget for the Southeast Conference. Included for comparison are adopted 1995 budget and the revised 1995 budget. Due to Conference changes, the '95 and '96 budget will be revised according to necessities. Your Board of Directors thanks you for your support and confidence.

	1994 Adopted	1994 Revised	1995 Proposed
INCOME			
OCWM Support	167,000	160,000	170,000
Church Development	20,000	20,000	20,000
Investment Income	21,000	25,000	25,000
Reimbursement, etc.	4,500	1,000	1,000
Association Special Support	7,500	5,000	5,000
UCBHM/Staff Support	21,000	21,000	21,000
TOTAL INCOME	241,000	232,000	242,000
EXPENSES			
Mission Beyond the Conference			
OCWM National	*13,000	*13,000	22,000
General Synod	4,000	4,000	1,000
Conference Ministers' Council	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total	18,000	18,000	24,000

(*first monies of above expenses go to UCBWM/National)

Mission Within the Conference

Church Development	0	100	100
Resource Material	500	500	600
<i>SE News/Packets</i>	3,500	4,000	4,000
Annual Meeting	1,000	1,000	1,000
Staff Travel	11,592	10,000	10,000
Commissions:			
Church & Ministry	0	500	500
Social Justice	0	500	500
Christian Education/Youth	0	300	300
Outreach/Stewardship	0	400	400
Church Development	0	300	300
Women (including National Meeting)	0	500	500
Program Fund	*3,700	*1,800	*1,500
Church Projects	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total	40,292	39,900	39,900

(*to be distributed to all programs)

Conference Organization & Operation

Board of Directors	3,500	4,000	4,000
Executive Committee	100	100	100
Personnel Committee	100	600	600
Finance Committee	600	200	200
Nominating Committee	100	200	200
Annual Meeting Committee	750	750	750
Search Processes		2,500	2,500
Total	5,150	8,350	8,350

Office Operation

Rent	9,000	9,000	9,000
Telephone	9,500	9,400	9,400
Office Supplies	2,915	3,000	3,000
Postage	4,000	4,000	4,000
Equipment Lease	0	0	0
Equipment Maintenance	3,785	2,000	2,000
Auditors	1,000	1,000	4,000
Dues & Fees	180	300	300
Worker's Compensation	900	900	900
Liability Insurance	800	1,300	1,300
Total	31,665	30,900	30,900

Personnel	145,000	134,000	138,000
Miscellaneous	893	850	850

TOTAL EXPENSES

241,000

232,000

242,000

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee has worked diligently to ensure that the fiscal stability of the SEC is as strong as ever. As newly appointed chair, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their continued support, and I look forward to working with them in the coming year. I would also like to "congratulate" all of the congregations who have contributed to the "Make-A-Difference Campaign." To date, we have exceeded our goal with total contributions currently at \$268,000.

In the past year the Finance Committee has successfully completed our 1993 and 1994 audits with Perry Lemmons Associates. Beginning this fiscal year, the Finance Committee will work closely to ensure that improvements in bookkeeping and reporting methods will be consistent with the recent changes in the tax laws. Also, a move to standardize our accounting method, both locally and nationally (our computers are now on the Lotus Notes programming and service) will make it easier to track our income and expenditures more clearly.

For the coming year, the overall forecast for our interest-bearing accounts will show a modest gain over last year. Fortunately, the strength of the market to date is a positive sign. These accounts will continue to be monitored closely.

In summary:

1. Checking is with Wachovia Bank.
2. A cash management account is maintained through Merrill Lynch.
3. Our endowment, restricted and designated funds are with the United Church Foundation.
4. At least annually, we have a meeting of the Southern Union Board, as part of our Board of Directors meeting.
5. Planned giving is encouraged strongly. James Mason, chair.
6. Consider special gifts to the SEC through Make-A-Difference, special projects, etc.

The overall budget for 1995 is an increase of 4.2% over 1994 actual budget. The proposed budget for 1996 represents no real increase over that of 1995. It was felt that a 4.2%, once adjusted for inflation, would be appropriate at this time.

Once again, we are concerned about our churches' OCWM contributions, and for all churches to participate and all to pay regularly. As a committee, we are encouraged that this year will be a year when we will see positive results as per an increase in OCWM contributions. It is incumbent upon each of us to commit to building a Conference that we can all be proud to be a part of in order to make this family whole.

Lastly, I want to express, on behalf of the Finance Committee, a heartfelt thanks to Lester Ariail, Steve Sterner and our Conference Minister, Roger Knight, for their support and undoubting faith. We express our gratitude to these three

individuals for their commitment and service. A special thanks also goes out to Nan Wright for all her effort and hard work during this past year.

Steven F. Parker, Chair

OCWM GIVING 1994

	1/1-3/31/95	1994
Ala/Tenn Assn.		
Alpine, King's Chapel	50.00	156.60
Athens, Trinity Congregational	.00	300.00
Belvidere, 1st United Church	1,082.00	6,072.75
Birmingham, 1st Congregational	1,000.00	4,500.00
Birmingham, Pilgrim	1,350.00	4,809.00
Chattanooga, 1st CC	.00	.00
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	2,196.00	10,984.25
Chattanooga, Sheares	.00	358.00
Crossville, UCC	809.75	3,330.00
Cullman, St. John's	1,350.00	8,600.00
Deer Lodge, Congregational	.00	1,200.00
Fairfield Glade, Community	925.00	3,700.00
Garden City, CC	.00	462.00
Glenmary, CC	.00	.00
Hanceville, Mountain Grove	.00	100.00
Huntsville, United	.00	6,000.00
Knoxville, Church of the Savior	.00	2,890.00
Marion, 1st Congregational	.00	.00
Montgomery, First	.00	3,800.00
Nashville, 1st UC	833.34	6,000.00
Nashville, Brookmeade	236.25	900.00
Nashville, Howard	.00	600.00
Pleasant Hill, Community	4,125.00	17,027.38
Robbins, Barton Chapel	.00	.00
Sweetwater, First	.00	250.00
Talladega, 1st Congregational	.00	200.00
Tougaloo, Union UCC	.00	.00
Waverly, United Community	.00	260.00
	13,957.34	82,499.98

East Ala/W. Ga Assn.

Alex City, First	.00	.00
Columbus, United	.00	.00
Dadeville, Elder	555.00	.00
East Tallassee, CC	.00	.00
Eclectic, Watson's Chapel	.00	.00

Five Points, State Line	.00	.00
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove	366.00	848.00
LaGrange, Hillside	.00	.00
LaGrange, United	305.00	224.00
Lanett	500.00	3,000.00
Langdale	.00	570.00
Phenix City, Russell Woods	380.00	1,140.00
Pine Forest	.00	.00
Pine Mountain, Oak Grove	600.00	.00
Roanoke, Antioch	.00	570.00
Roanoke, Bethany	.00	142.00
Roanoke, Forest Home	.00	.00
Roanoke, New Hope	570.00	570.00
Roanoke, North Main	380.00	570.00
Roanoke, Rock Stand	.00	.00
Valley, Todd Congregational	.00	.00
Wadley, Corinth	.00	475.00
Wedowee, Noon Day	.00	.00
West Point, Bethel	.00	.00
Woodbury, Jones Chapel	474.00	2,736.00
	4,130.00	10,845.00

Ga/S. Carolina Assn.

Atlanta, Center	.00	210.00
Atlanta, Central	6,894.99	26,776.20
Atlanta, First	.00	11,000.00
Atlanta, Rush	.00	500.00
Atlanta, Southwest	.00	.00
Atlanta, UCC	.00	.00
Beachton, Evergreen	.00	990.00
Buford, Duncan's Creek	.00	.00
Central Congregational Women	200.00	200.00
Charleston, Circular	1,333.32	3,333.30
Charleston, Plymouth	.00	1,350.00
Columbia, Fellowship	.00	.00
Demorest, Federated	118.06	238.42
Dewy Rose, Liberty	.00	.00
GA-SC Association	.00	2,200.00
Jonesboro, Trinity	1,875.00	7,200.00
Marietta, Amistad	.00	.00
Marietta, Pilgrimage	550.00	5,753.00
Midway, Congregational	200.00	600.00
Savannah, First	600.00	1,000.00
Thomasville, Bethany Congregational	.00	300.00

S. Ala/N.W. Fla

Andalusia, Antioch	.00	1,400.00
Andalusia, First CC	165.00	550.00
Baker, Good Hope	.00	.00
Baker, Pyron	.00	.00
Bonifay, New Effort	.00	.00
Brantley, Indian Creek	.00	.00
Brantley, Liberty Congregational	100.00	400.00
Clio, New Hope	.00	50.00

Church Development & Evangelism Commission

The task of the Church Development and Evangelism Commission of the SEC is to aid in the establishment of new churches, the renewal of existing churches who experience a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit in their midst and the relocation of churches who feel led to a new place for a new ministry.

The commission works toward these ends in conjunction with the Division of Evangelism and Local Church Development of the UCBHM. They are an important source of experience and expertise, providing most of the funds where appropriate.

Important as that association may be, it is a distant second to the primary relationship, namely, God's people, gathered by the call of the Spirit situated in the local community. There is no new church, no church to renew or to relocate without a community of believers gathered together ready to give time, energy and money to the church. The foundation of the Church is Jesus Christ. The people are the living stones of which the church is built. And this come together around a leader who is spiritually alert, energetic, committed to the church, and oriented to the ministry of building the body of Christ. By the grace of God, there are such people!

In Columbia, SC, there is a faith community gathered under the leadership of the Rev. Nancy Donny and Mr. Erik Nordgren, exploring the possibility of a new church start. There is a similar exploration taking place in Macon, GA under the interim leadership of Rev. Lester Ariail. Sheares Memorial Church is beginning the process of a leadership search for a new pastor. Center Church, Atlanta, is revitalized under the leadership of Rev. Don Nelson. There are other situations at various levels of renewal and development that keep in touch with the Conference.

The Committee does a valuable service and their close connections place them in an advantageous position for all of these efforts.

Edward Schneider
Chair

New Church

The United Church of Christ Heart of Georgia Fellowship in Macon, Georgia meets at the First Christian Church, 2306 Vineville Avenue, with Lester Ariail as coordinating minister.

Travel With an Added Dimension

Holy Land Tour

December 4-13, 1995

Departs Atlanta, Georgia

For more information, contact the Rev. Dr. Fred Mills, P.O. Box 6, LaGrange College, LaGrange, GA 30240; (706) 884-1922

Educational Opportunities

World Travel With a Purpose

Sponsored by:

Church Growth and Development Committee

East Alabama-West Georgia Association

The Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee, as outlined in the Constitution of the SEC, began its work by reviewing and making some changes in the personnel policies, to bring them into agreement with current labor laws, and to reflect more clearly the intent of certain provisions. One section of the personnel policies (personal and sick leave) is still in the process of being revised.

Office staff positions were reviewed with the Conference Minister and approval was given to the hiring of Nan Wright as a salaried, 25-hour-per-week, administrative assistant. A second position of 15 hours per week was approved, primarily for telephone answering and other secretarial duties as assigned by Nan Wright and would cover hours when Nan is not in the office. This arrangement is somewhat different than the Conference Office has had in the past, but appears to be working well.

In December, housing allowances for 1995 for Roger Knight and Mitchell Johnson were approved by the Committee, and a recommendation of a 3% cost of living increase for Conference staff was approved. These were confirmed by the Board of Directors at the January meeting. Additionally, since a performance evaluation of the Conference Minister had not been instituted in over two years, it was decided to begin this process. The Committee agreed to follow the same process which Truman Moore had developed for the 1992 performance evaluation. In early January, thirty persons in the Conference most able to evaluate one area of the Conference Minister's responsibilities were sent performance evaluation forms. Each was asked to evaluate only the area in which he/she had direct experience of the Conference Minister's performance. These responses formed the basis for the written performance evaluation, and for a recommendation to the Board of Directors of a merit increase in 1995 for the Conference Minister.

The evaluation was concluded just prior to Roger Knight's resignation. It was an affirmation of the very high regard which Roger has earned within the Conference and at the national level as well. Several respondents expressed concern regarding the number of job responsibilities which reside within the Conference Minister's purview. One respondent termed it "inhumane." A recommendation was made that a position of "Assistant to the Conference Minister" be created, a position which would handle the detailed administrative work of the Conference Minister, with the Conference Minister pursuing the visionary, leadership, and pastoral functions which is his/her true role.

With Roger's decision to move into parish ministry, and the Structure Committee's restructuring of the Conference, we stand now at a crossroads. At this point, any recommendations for personnel must await other Conference decisions. I thank the Committee for the work they have done, and all of those who participated in this evaluation process.

Rev. Holly Nelson, Chair

Youth Council Report

Meetings were held in September and October to plan activities for youth, specifically the Youth Rally, held in January at Pilgrim Church in Birmingham. The youth had a really good time and enjoyed games, music, roasting s'mores and a visit to the Firehouse Shelter for homeless and less fortunate people. The Council also discussed many ideas and shared thoughts of the direction we would like to go in the future.

It is in the plans to scheduled another Youth Council in May. We are also hoping that many young people will attend the Mini-Camp in Laguna Beach, FL April 28-30, 1995. We are also talking about and working on plans for a summer rally at St. John's Church in Cullman, AL.

Tim Klein,
Youth Coordinator

The following is a report on the January Youth Rally, as written by Sellers Bell and Amanda Lavender, both from Pilgrim Youth Group. The UCC Youth Retreat was planned and hosted by the Birmingham Pilgrim Congregational UCC Youth, under the leadership of Rev. Renae Koehler.

Registration started at 7:00 p.m. and by 8:00, the last of the smiley-faced stragglers had arrived at the church for the Pilgrim Youth Retreat of 1995.

After a fattening meal of pizza and Dr. Pepper, everyone gathered in the fellowship hall for getting-acquainted games. We sat in a circle on the floor and took turns stating our name, age, home church and our favorite kitchen appliance. Since we now knew each other better, we were ready to move on.

Divided into two groups, we set out to either tie-dye or make s'mores and talk around the fireplace. Afterward, we put our tie-dye clothes away and wiped the marshmallow off our faces and settled in for the night. We later had a youth

worship service on the floor of the fellowship hall. Barbie Williamson played her guitar and sang songs to the wide-eyed teenagers before her.

After the worship, some went to sleep, while others stayed up and talked most of the night. At 8:00 a.m. the next morning, everyone was up and ready to eat. Rev. Roger Knight came to give us a pep talk and ate breakfast with us. Next, we all got dressed and ready to load the vans and set off for downtown.

We did volunteer work at the Firehouse Shelter for homeless men, cleaning the upstairs sleeping quarters and kitchen, and talking to some of the homeless men about their lives.

At 12 noon, we went to the Galleria Mall to eat lunch and shop. By 2:30 pm., we met to return to the church where we had another worship service and made prayer flags. Everyone then packed their bags and said their goodbyes, and formally ended the Pilgrim Youth Retreat of 1995.

Sellers Bell and Amanda Lavender

NOTE: 47 youth attended the Retreat: 2 from Huntsville; 5 from Sweetwater, TN; 9 from Rush, Atlanta; 7 from Langdale UCC; 15 from Cullman; 5 from Pilgrim; and 4 from First, Birmingham. There were 12 adult advisors.

YOUTH NEWS FLASH

Tim Klein resigns ...

Our Youth Coordinator, Tim, found it necessary to resign as Conference Coordinator due to the demands of his new employment. But he promises to be involved, and wants to continue to assist in promoting the youth activities in the Conference.

We are grateful to Tim and Debbie, his wife, for their efforts to promote the youth activities within the Conference.

Women's Concerns and Issues in the Light of the Gospel

UCC Women in our Southeast Conference are women in mission ... women engaged in reaching out to others to share Christ's love in concrete ways in their churches, communities and beyond. They are also women concerned with justice for all. The Commission of Women in Church and Society seeks to provide resources and programs for churches and leaders dealing with women's concerns and issues in the light of the Gospel.

This has been a very full year for the Commission, including:

- 1) Two Commission meetings (November and April), with great commitment and energy on the part of all.
- 2) An inspiring and stimulating Southeast Conference Women's Retreat at Shocco Springs, Talladega, AL, October 7-9 on the theme, "She Has Done

What She Could." Rev. Helen Pearson was the keynote speaker and over 100 women attended.

3) Our partnership with Iowa Conference UCC was strengthened and enriched by the presence and very active participation of four Iowa sisters at the above retreat.

4) Three outstanding laywomen, chosen by the Commission, will be honored by the General Synod this summer at Oakland, CA. They are Lala Allen of LaFayette, AL; Audrey Livingston of Knoxville, TN; and Clara Lowe of Atlanta, GA.

5) A number of our churches celebrated UCC Women's Week, February 5-11. Copies of *Common Lot*, with creative worship and program suggestions were made available.

6) East Alabama Women's Fellowship held their Annual Retreat in August and their Spring Rally in March. Both meetings included excellent programs on the church's mission in South America, presented by Louise Cox.

7) Ala-Tenn Association Women had a well-attended and inspiring workshop in July, coordinated by Armistrice Robinson and led by Rev. Renae Koehler.

8) Ga-SC Association Committee on Women has held three meetings in 1995 and is busy with a survey assessing program needs of women in their area.

9) The Women's Mite, chaired by Kathryn Robinson, continued to receive gifts (five cents a day per woman, \$18.15 a year, is suggested) and distributed scholarship aid for women to attend leadership events.

10) Efforts were made to improve communications about women's concerns and programs. One aspect of this is including articles regularly in the *SE News*.

11) Efforts were made (and will continue) to increase the number of women in leadership positions in all settings of our church.

12) All women and/or women's groups are urged to become partners in UCCWM (United Church Women in Mission) and regularly receive *Common Lot* and a variety of other resources.

13) Concern about violence against women, sexual harassment, women in prison, endorsement of the UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and a number of other issues have been studied and addressed by women of our Conference.

14) Plans are well underway for National UCC Women's Meeting in Boston, MA, June 27-30, 1996 and for the next Southeast Conference Women's Retreat at Shocco Springs Sept. 20-22, 1996.

15) The next Southern Regional Women's Retreat is Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 1995 at Blowing Rock, NC. A wonderful event is planned and the keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Susan Newman of First Congregational, Atlanta. Register now, as space is limited. (Brochures are available from the Conference office).

Please contact the Women's Commission with questions, suggestions or offers of help in regard to any concern or program.

Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown
Chair

Who Cares? SERRV Cares! SERRV Shares!

SERRV is an ecumenical marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet to artisans in economically developing areas of the world. The commitment of SERRV is to the handcraft producers in order for them to get an equitable share of the retail price. SERRV was started following World War II (in the late 40s) to help the German people who were suffering from the effects of war. It is a non-profit program of the World Ministries Commission of the Church of the Brethren. Throughout the years a cooperative relationship with Church World Service has helped SERRV increase its supply sources and expand market potential. SERRV currently markets approximately 1500 quality items from about 200 producers. It is also of interest to note that approximately one-half of the SERRV price is received by the handcraft producer.

How do we in the Southeast Conference fit into the picture????? Every time you purchase a SERRV handcrafted article you are helping someone in the Third World earn a little money to keep a household going. Many of the items are made by women. Just look at the prices! Nowhere can you buy such lovely articles for such a reasonable price. So, while you are at the Southeast Annual Meeting, look over the many selections and perhaps you would like something for yourself or as a gift for someone you love. You can help and receive a beautiful gift at the same time. Ruth and Bob Peebles (now retired) have accepted the challenge to bring SERRV products to Conference, association, local churches, groups of churches, etc. Just give us a call if you would like to have us bring SERRV to your organization ... and, oh yes, while you are at the Southeast Conference, stop by our tables in the display area and select your SERRV items.

Ruth and Bob Peebles
P.O. Box 33
Pleasant Hill, TN 38578
(615) 277-5197

Good Planning, The Key to Good Results!

The first meeting of the Program Committee was held Sept. 23-24, 1994, where the major focus was the Annual Program Planning Meeting. Date for the meeting was set for Nov. 18-19 at Trinity Church in Jonesboro, Georgia with the theme centered around the Christian Education curriculum "The Word Among Us."

At the Program Planning Meeting, Moderator Rev. Richard Sales welcomed everyone and Conference Minister Rev. Roger Knight gave brief remarks about the Conference and the associations that comprise it. Rev. Knight then introduced the

speaker, Rev. Susan Newman, Senior Pastor, First Congregational Church UCC, Atlanta, who led the group in a stimulating and challenging worship.

Commission group meetings began on Friday evening and were designed to provide chairs of the commissions to meet with their membership to set goals for Conference-wide, mission-related programs for the year, based on a review of previous plans and accomplishments.

The meeting concluded with a plenary session in which chairpersons gave reports, highlighting their work, followed by closing worship.

A meeting of the commission chairs was held January 20, 1995 through teleconference with each giving updates of their programs and all expressing continuing concern relative to receiving information about budget expenditures.

Submitted by Annie W. Neal

A MEMORABLE YEAR!

My original report was written in January. I had to scrap it, but I do want to remember for you, friends I met last August in Botswana in Africa. They wish us well and they have battled with poverty and been the stronger for it. They thanked me deeply for the greetings I brought from you.

This has been a year I shall remember. You don't remember things that just go swimmingly. You remember a time when the world fragments in your hands, so this will be a memorable year for me.

I knew that my years as moderator would be tough when I realized we were going to make several important structural changes in the way the Southeast Conference operates. We would have to agree to changes (1995) and then make constitutional provision for them (1996). That seemed a challenge that would keep life "interesting."

But now, as you all know, we are faced with at least two staffing changes of the Conference Minister during 1995-96; first, an Interim Conference Minister and then a permanent replacement for Roger. The worst thing about it is that Roger won't be able to lend a helping hand in this one, and we have all become accustomed to Roger's helping hands. Let me say that I will truly miss Roger, and not just because of the task he has left for us. Some of us had reservations about his call in 1988. What did the Minnesotan know about the South?

But, on the other hand, what did we know about the way a conference was intended to work? Roger, with cajoling, honesty and laughter, led us, starting with balancing the books, setting up records, and calling churches to a new future. Today we are a conference, albeit a small one, and we owe its operation to him. He "loved" us into it. Yes, and he logged countless miles to be with us in our joys and in our sorrows.

I want you to know that when the Board of Directors put forward names for both the Interim Search Committee and the permanent Search Committee, they picked the cream of the crop and every single person contacted agreed to serve. That says a great deal about from there the Conference has come. It also says

something, I believe, about where we are going. Look forward to what these folk will find for us. I do.

Dick Sales

Work Project: Iowa—SEC Conference

On behalf of the Southeast Conference (SEC) and the Iowa-SEC Conference Partnership Committee, we wish to extend this invitation to participate in our WORK PROJECT '95 the week of June 11-17, 1995.

We invite you to share God's love with distant neighbors in Morgan and Scott counties, Tennessee. WORK PROJECT '95 will be improving houses for needy families, repairing steps, porches, roofs, floors, and painting. We are asked to contribute both the labor and the materials. Volunteers will be housed in the Project offices (strictly roughing it!) where meals will also be taken. A 15-passenger van will leave Atlanta following the Annual Meeting, to return the following Saturday, June 17.

There are many ways to take part in WORK PROJECT '95, one for every church and family. First, we need a work crew of 10 to 15 people for the jobs. Another crew is needed to organize the care and feeding of the whole group over the week. Finally, there is a need for cash, food, and/or materials for the week's projects.

Please plan to join with us in some way in WORK PROJECT '95. We look forward to plenty of hard work, worship and fellowship, and most importantly, your support. For more information, or to let us know how you can share in this experience, contact Elizabeth Clement at (404) 876-3217, or Charlie Lord at (615) 277-3714.

Elizabeth Clement, SEC Board Member-at-Large
Charlie Lord, Iowa-SEC Partnership Chair

A MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE!!!

*The Women of the Southern Conference to host the
Southern Regional Biennial Meeting of UCC Women
The Winds Are In Place! The Workshops Are Planned!
The Arms Are Open Wide! The Beds Are Made!*

"Winds of the Spirit" is the theme of this meeting which will be held September 29-October 1, 1995 at Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds, Blowing Rock, North Carolina.

Keynote speaker will be Rev. Susan D. Newman of Atlanta, Georgia.
Included workshops are:

*Legal Issues for Women
Forum for Clergy Women
Spirit Renewal*

Creative Movement in the Spirit
Positive Thinking in a World of Negativity
Journal Keeping

There will be music, crafts and fellowship. Closing worship will focus on the plight of migrant workers. Other features will include a silent auction, BBQ dinner with live entertainment, the Owl's Nest Bookstore and some SERRV self-help handcrafts. Participants may also tour Grandfather Mountain, the actual Blowing Rock, or the religious frescoes in West Jefferson.

Interested??? Contact Southeast Conference registrar Shirley Tucker, Route 11, Box 255, Crossville, TN 38555 (phone: 615-788-2071).

Appalachian Work Camp

June 11-17, 1995

An Iowa-Southeast Conference Partnership Project at the Morgan-Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns.

The special adult (and youth) work camp will enable Iowans and Southerners with minimal carpentry skills to improve houses for needy families by repairing steps, porches, roofs, floors and painting.

To learn of the heritage of Appalachia and enjoy the beauty of the area; to make new friends from other churches and another part of the country.

NO FEE – but donations are requested to help pay for materials. If interested, contact:

Elizabeth Clement, 382-A Angier Drive N.E., Atlanta, GA 30312; phone (404) 876-3217, or

Charlie Lord, P.O. Box 464, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578; phone (615) 277-3714.

Christian Education Commission Report

The Christian Education Commission of the SEC is committed to the education of the whole family and to becoming strong biblical people. We realize that education is a continuous process ... we go on with a vision of creating our values and continuing to live, love, learn and prepare.

Our Commission met through both conference calls and committee meetings and planned for a "Teachers and Leaders Training Event" to be held on Saturday, August 12, 1995 at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Chattanooga, TN from 8:30 to 3:30. There will be a variety of workshops presented by Lester Atrial, Joe Hoffman and Dyann Wilkerson. Complete details will be available at the Annual Meeting.

The Commission plans to host a Men's Retreat in September. Location will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Efforts were made and will continue to be made for a strong and effective youth program in the SEC. Thanks to Tim Klein who worked so wonderfully with the Youth Council.

Yubenia Prigmore, Chair

Conference Minister Search Committee

Advisor: Marilyn Dubasak (Cleveland)

Co-Chairs: Barbara Everett, Milton Hurst

Members: Dr. Erna Bryant, Liz Clement, Arthur Dailey, James Myers, Holly Nelson, Steve Sterner, Bill Tweed, Jan Blair Witte.

Interim Task Force Members

Chair: Richard Sales

Members: Jan Whiteman, Roy Bain, Lenda Sherrell, Steve Parker

Directions to Simpsonwood Conference & Retreat Center

Directions from I-285, Exit #23:

Exit #23 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Continue north 3.7 miles to left exit on Hwy. 141; sign will read "Hwy. 141 to 400 Cumming and Dahlonega."

Once on Hwy. 141, also called Peachtree Parkway, go north 2.8 miles, to a left on East Jones Bridge Road (see BP station on right).

Continue to East Jones Bridge Road 1.4 miles to a left on Jones Bridge Circle; see Simpson Elementary School on right.

Continue 1.2 miles on Jones Bridge Circle to a right into Simpsonwood Conference Center. Follow signs to Rollins Center and parking.

NOMINEE PROFILES

Harry Manon (for Christian Education Commission): Harry is a retired pastor; served in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio. Served the denomination in the 17/76 Achievement Fund; served the church in Pennsylvania as executive of campus ministry for six denominations. Served Alabama/Tennessee Association as Chair of Stewardship and the Southeast Conference as General Synod delegate, 1987.

David Speno (for Treasurer): David was educated at Fairfield University, graduated *cum laude* from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University and was elected to *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*, 1993. He serves as chaplain at Emory University Hospital currently serving the lung transplant team. He has

been a licensed minister since 1993. He spent 20 years as an investment banker with Citicorp Investment Banking division, First American Banking Corporation, and Dominion Bankshares. He is married to Lynn McWhorter and has two children, Colleen and John. He served as co-opted member of the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors, Southeast Conference and has recently been accepted for the Doctor of Theology program at Candler.

Clara S. Lowe (for Heritage Committee): Clara has worked in education as a substitute teacher at Trinity High School, an elementary school teacher in Athens, AL and other areas of education. She has served as a social worker for the Atlanta Housing Authority and a caseworker for the Atlanta Public Welfare. Clara has also been Social Services Director of the Equal Opportunity Program in Atlanta and a professor of Social Work at Atlanta University. She retired in 1992. Clara was married for 44 years to the late Charles W. Lowe. Clara has been a member of the First Congregational Church in Atlanta for 40 years and has served in many capacities including deaconess, Sunday School worker and various committees.

Louise Cox (for Member-at-Large): Louise is a member of the Pleasant Grove UCC in LaFayette, AL, where she served as Moderator of the East Alabama/West Georgia Association, 1980-84. She is active in Women in Church and Society, Grandmothers for Peace, Servants in Faith and Technology. Louise is also active in mission work, having just returned from her third mission trip on the Caparo River in Venezuela. Louise is married to J. T. Cox (47 years) and has 5 children and 9 grandchildren. She is retired from Southern Union State Junior College where she taught speech and drama.

Michele Brathwaite (for GA/SC Association member): Michele is a Polytechnic University graduate with a degree in Civil Engineering and is currently a project engineer for MARTA, where she administers contracts in preparation for the Olympic games. She became a part of Amistad when they were only a Bible study class and now serves as chair of the Board of Deacons. Michele is blessed with the gift of prophecy, having dreamed of many things which have occurred in the growth of Amistad UCC. She and her husband, Jeff, live in Atlanta.

Susan Ewing (for Secretary).

Roger Knight Called to Cleveland

Beth and Roger Knight will be moving to Cleveland, where Roger has accepted a call to be pastor of the Euclid Avenue Congregational Church – UCC.

Our moving plans and dates are uncertain, as we must sell our house here first. The church is an historic large church, which in recent years has developed a strong community ministry; it is a congregation with great diversities. We are looking forward to being part of a community of faith.

Roger will begin in early May. All correspondence to the church: 9606 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106, 216/791-5200. Home address: later when housing matters resolved.

Dear Moderator Richard, the Board of Directors, and all in the Southeast Conference,

I extend to you the grace, mercy and peace of God in Christ as I submit this letter of resignation as Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference. Many things could be said now of what are the most enriching, challenging, profound and seasoning years of my ministry. I am very grateful to you and to God. In Professor Henry Higgins' song, "I've grown accustomed to your (face, looks, etc.) faith, ways, hopes, pains, etc. – like breathing out and breathing in ..." To weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice occurs personally and with so many of our congregations as we witness to God's mission and calling here in the Southeast. There are so many of you to whom I want to express special and personal gratitude; I hope to be able to do so before leaving.

I went into the ordained ministry to be a local church pastor, and have longed to be such again. I have been called to be pastor of Euclid Avenue Congregational United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio, an historic, once much larger church which committed itself to community program and mission, and now is about 200 members – a very diverse congregation with a pregnant future.

The Southeast Conference Constitution indicates a 90-day resignation time; the specific arrangements around termination at the end of May with vacation in May, and plans and arrangements for interim leadership and Conference plans, I will finalize with the Board of Directors.

It is with confidence in you and God's faithfulness that I remember each of you and each congregation. God is good; God has led us through all our days, and will lead into tomorrow's promises. God's peace to you.

Faithfully,
Roger D. Knight
Conference Minister

CHURCH AND PEOPLE NOTES:

News Around the Conference

Dr. Richard and Trudy Braun returned in April after serving 6 months on medical staff in mission hospital in Nepal.

The Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown is currently in Angola, at their invitation. Joyce had served many years earlier, prior to the civil war there.

Ted Braun led another group to Cuba in January to learn and share.

Ken Briggs, former UCC military chaplain, is serving the Christian Church near Tuskegee, AL.

Talladega, First UCC is envisioning the possibility of building a fellowship hall. Milton Hurst, pastor.

Jim Courtney, South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association Moderator, had 5 heart bypasses in March.

Floyd Carmack had fusion of several vertebrae to relieve years of back pain.

Ruth Crook has moved to her hometown in Michigan after Larry's death in February.

Joe Hoffman is writing curriculum for the *Word Among Us*.

Kathryn Hauk is taking CPE residency at Georgia Baptist Hospital.

Ed Miner was called to staff of a UCC in Columbus, OH.

Rush Church, Atlanta, is considering its future anew, as a promenade is being projected by Clark University, which will entail closing the street in front of the church.

Dr. J. Herbert Gilmore, former interim at Belvidere and renowned Southern preacher, passed away in March. Our condolences to his wife and family.

Mrs. Marion Young—Phemie—died in March. Phemie had served on Conference and National boards. She and Marion served in earlier years at Pioneer Academy, Pleasant Hill.

Robert Pugh is slowly recuperating after a near-death infection earlier. God strengthen you, Bob!

Both Bill and Lynn Tweed were hospitalized recently.

David Naglee continues treatment for his health.

Pleasant Hill Community Church will dedicate its new facilities in May. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Dipko of UCBHM will preach.

CHURCHES & PASTORS

Fairfield Glade, TN – Jim Nash resigned; Tom Eckert has been called as Interim Pastor.

Chattanooga, Pilgrim – Jack Yates is serving as interim.

Sweetwater, First UCC – Andrew Frierson resigned; Robert Johnson serving as Interim Pastor.

LaFayette, Pleasant Grove UCC – Win Clark serving as interim.

Birmingham, First UCC – Rod Franklin's installation on May 21, 5:00 p.m.

Macon, Heart of Georgia Fellowship UCC – began services in April, 3:00 p.m. each week. Lester Ariail, Coordinating Pastor.

Atlanta, Center Congregational – Don Nelson installed as pastor April 16.

Buford – Duncan's Creek – James Dillin called as pastor.

Decatur, GA – Frances Bryant-Lowery has been called as Minister of Outreach & Mission at Oakhurst Baptist Church.

Columbia Fellowship has rented a meeting hall and is drawing more people consistently. Nancy Donny, Pastor. Corey Keyes and Erik Nordgren of the Fellowship will enter seminary this fall.

PASTORAL VACANCIES

Atlanta, First UCC – Associate Pastor

Savannah, First UCC – Pastor

Charleston, Circular Congregational – Co-Pastor

Chattanooga, Pilgrim – Pastor

Chattanooga, Sheares Memorial – Pastor

Sweetwater, First – Pastor

Roanoke, North Main – Pastor

Langdale, Congregational Christian – Pastor

Fairfield Glade – Pastor

Montgomery, First – Pastor

Waverly, UCC – Pastor

Welcoming New Conference Staff Member

We welcome Betty Ann Daniell to our Conference Office support staff! Betty Ann will be working from 1 to 4 p.m. She has good work experience, is resourceful, detail-oriented and a valuable addition to our staff.

20th General Synod of the UCC Honors Outstanding Women, Allen, Livingston, Lowe

Every two years the UCC honors women who have made an outstanding contribution to their churches and communities. More than 1,000 laywomen have been named since the honor was established in 1983. This year, women from approximately 40 states will be recognized at a “Gifts of the Laywomen” luncheon Sunday, July 2, at the biennial General Synod in Oakland, California.

Lala Allen, 87, is considered a “dynamo” at LaFayette Pleasant Grove Congregational Christian UCC. A retired teacher and an active farmer, she has served on the Board of Directors for the UCC’s regional Southeast Conference and chaired the Conference’s Visions ’91 finance campaign, helping it to exceed its \$150,000 fund-raising goal. She is also donating 100 acres of land in east Alabama for the development of a self-sustaining conference retreat center. Her nominators describe Allen as a “marvelous matriarch of integrity, wisdom, wit and love.”

A charter member of Church of the Savior UCC in Knoxville, *Audrey B. Livingston* has been active in various roles from president of the congregation to Sunday School teacher. She has been a leader in organizing the Women’s’ Group and has helped maintain the congregation’s food pantry. Livingston has also volunteered for many committees and activities in the Southeast Conference and Alabama-Tennessee Association, both regional bodies in the UCC, such as serving as association moderator and conference board secretary. Her nominators say, “When Audrey accepts a task, you can count on her dependability, thoughtfulness and creativity.”

A member of First Congregational Church, UCC in Atlanta, *Clara S. Lowe* recently served on the church’s senior minister search committee. Among other activities, Lows is a participant in the Trinity School Alumnae, an American Missionary Association school founded in 1865 in Athens, Ala. She has been secretary and assistant to the business manager at UCC-related Talladega College in Alabama and has worked in the business office at Clark Atlanta University. Lowe was also a professor for 10 years, teaching group work and community organization at UCC-related Atlanta University. She is on the board of the

Morehouse School of Medicine Kellogg Foundation Project in Atlanta. In 1968, she co-authored and was primary strategist for a \$500,000 proposal, funded by the Field Foundation, called Project CURE (College/Community Urban Relations Enterprises), which was headquartered at Morehouse College. The program lasted five years and helped children and adults in Atlanta.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Published by the Southeast Conference

United Church of Christ

Conference Minister, Roger D. Knight

Associate Conference Minister, Mitchell C. Johnson

Office Administrator, Nan Wright

Moderator, Richard Sales

Vice Moderator, Annie Neal

Secretary, Jan Whiteman

Treasurer, Lester Ariail

Alabama-Tennessee Association Moderator, William (Bill) Chew

East Alabama-West Georgia Association Moderator, Jimmy Pilkington

Georgia-South Carolina Association Moderator, Larry Calbert

South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association Moderator, Jim Courtney

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The preceding was a transcription from the original publication, except for photographs and associated captions, an application for the Women's Mite Scholarship Fund on page 5, addresses and telephone numbers of Conference Minister Search Committee and Interim Task Force members and a map of Simpsonwood Conference Center on page 13, and an advertisement for Judson Press on page 15. Neither the original nor the transcription are copyrighted or have rights reserved; they are in the public domain for free use. Copies of the original may be obtained from the Congregational Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

This transcription was recorded on September 24, 25, and 26, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

